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Sens. George and Birkholz stunned about governor's veto to remove the Kalamazoo River dams

LANSING – Sens. Tom George and Patty Birkholz today said they were stunned and outraged to hear the governor had vetoed funding for the removal of three dams on the Kalamazoo River.

"I am disappointed the governor would veto funding for removal of these three decrepit dams that are the state's responsibility," said George, R-Texas Township. "We hear the same story every year--that the department is close to having a plan. But the reality is that they are no closer than they were last year, or the year before that. Now we've earmarked resources for them to work on this problem and they turn them away."

The funding would have been for the removal of the Otsego, Plainwell and Trowbridge dams on the Kalamazoo River.

"I am extremely disappointed with the governor's actions today as she knows this appropriation is entirely consistent with the goal of cleaning up the Kalamazoo River," said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. "The residents and communities along the Kalamazoo River have been waiting too long for clean and free flowing water without dangerous obstructions. This veto by the governor is very shortsighted."